

NOV 8 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Communications Investigation by a Congressional Committee

1. Attached hereto is a copy of a letter received by the Department of State from the Chairman of a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce which is planning "to make a full and complete study and investigation, among other things of such problems as it may deem proper relating to all matters relating to radio, telegraph, and telephone communications". It is expected that hearings will begin shortly after Congress convenes in January 1950. Of particular concern to the subcommittee is the frequency shortage problem. It is also understood, unofficially, that the committee has some interest in determining whether present Government communications practices deprive commercial interests of potential revenue. Senator Ernest W. McFarland, Democrat of Arizona, is chairman of this subcommittee.

2. Such an investigation as that referred to above and outlined in the attached copy of the letter to the State Department presents a serious hazard to the security of operations of this Agency for the following reasons:

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3. The possibility of indiscriminate questioning of State Department and National Military Establishment representatives by members of the committee regarding the Central Intelligence Agency communications activities is of considerable concern, inasmuch as the hearings will be

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4. As a result of conferences held by the Chief Communications Division, ODO, with Communications officials of the Departments of State, Army, and Navy, it is recommended that the following action be taken:

a. The Central Intelligence Agency, through its legislative liaison channels, approach the Chairman of this subcommittee with a request that no questions be permitted by members of the committee the answers to which would require discussion of Central Intelligence Agency communications arrangements.

b. An executive session of the communications committee of the U. S. Senate be held prior to the open hearings at which appropriate State Department and National Military Establishment representatives will outline in general the hazards to national security of such disclosures and if necessary, brief the committee members verbally on the classified communications arrangements of the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Assistant Director  
Special Operations

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